

21st Century Skills



Loudoun County Public Schools



What are *“21st Century Skills?”*



Mastery of Core Subjects

- **English, reading or language arts**
- **World languages**
- **Arts**
- **Mathematics**
- **Economics**
- **Science**
- **Geography**
- **History**
- **Government/Civics**

21st Century Themes

In addition to these subjects, schools must promote understanding of content at much higher levels by weaving 21st century interdisciplinary themes into the core subjects:

- Global awareness
- Financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy
- Civic literacy
- Health literacy

Learning and Innovation Skills

Learning and innovation skills increasingly are the skills that separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21st century, and those who are not. Essential to prepare students for the future are:

- Creativity and Innovation Skills
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills
- Communication and Collaboration Skills

Information, Media and Technology Skills

People in the 21st century live in a technology and media-suffused environment, marked by access to an abundance of information.

To be effective in the 21st century, citizens and workers must be able to exhibit a range of functional and critical thinking skills to be able to evaluate the value and accuracy of the wealth of information available to them.

Life and Career Skills

Today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge and the ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age.

- Flexibility & Adaptability
- Adapting to varied roles and responsibilities
- Working effectively in a climate of ambiguity and changing priorities
- Setting and meeting high standards and goals for delivering quality work on time

What is STEM?

- A national initiative to promote student interest in careers in the areas of
- **Science**
- **Technology**
- **Engineering**
- **Mathematics**



What is STEM?

LCPS promotes interest in STEM areas:

- **Academy of Science**
- **Monroe Technology Center**
- **Career and Technical Courses**
- **Advanced Mathematics Electives**
- **Exploratory Summer Camps in Children's Engineering and Career Readiness Experiences**



Global Awareness

Characteristics of Exemplary Schools:

- English only is not okay

LCPS Spanish instruction in grades 1-6; students begin high school credit foreign language instruction in grade 7



Global Awareness

Characteristics of Exemplary Schools:

- Teleconferencing is for kids

LCPS offers opportunities for teleconferences beginning in elementary schools.

- * **NASA**
- * **The Challenger Learning Center**
- * **St. Lorraine Anglo-Chinese School**



Global Awareness

Characteristics of Exemplary Schools:

- Connect with and listen to the business community

LCPS collaborates with businesses and higher education through over 155 business partnerships



Global Awareness

Characteristics of Exemplary Schools:

- Teachers need global education, too

LCPS sets high expectations for teachers to continually improve skills and offers a comprehensive professional development program utilizing consultants, business partners, and faculty at universities and colleges



